

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 05037 141204Z
ACTION ARA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6017
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, DR
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF AMNESTIED POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGINS

1. FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE AMNESTY LAW SEPTEMBER 8, JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES BEGAN PROCESSING THE RELEASE OF "POLITICAL PRISONERS" EARLY THIS WEEK. AS OF SEPTEMBER 12 OVER SIXTY INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN RELEASED OUT OF A LIST OF 192 DRAWN UP BY ATTORNEY GENERAL CAONABO FERNANDEZ NARANJO IN CONJUNCTION WITH A COMMITTEE OF THE FAMILIES OF PRISONERS.

2. AMONG THE MORE CELEBRATED PRISONERS WHO HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO DATE ARE:

A. PLINIO MATOS MOQUETE - LEADER OF A SPLINTER GROUP FROM THE VIOLENCE-PRONE MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD), "THE SO-CALLED PLINIO GROUP". HE WAS ARRESTED IN JAN 1973 FOR BANK ROBBERY AND HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH OTHER CRIMES.

B. JUAN BAUTISTA CASTILLO PUJOLS - LEADER OF A SPLINTER GROUP OF THE PARTIDO COMUNISTA DOMINICANO (PCD), THE MOVIMIENTO DE LIBERACION DOMINICANA (MLD). HE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A PCD CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND ONE OF
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THE LEADING ACTIVISTS OF THE MLD DURING ITS VIOLENT HEY-DAYS IN THE EARLY 1970'S. HE WAS ARRESTED IN DECEMBER 1974 FOR BANK ROBBERY.

C. JORGE PUELLO SORIANO ("EL MEN") - ANOTHER LEADER OF THE MPD, HE WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED IN JUNE 1976 WITH BANK ROBBERY AND OTHER CRIMES.

D. JOSE IGNACIO MARTE POLANCO - CONVICTED IN 1967

FOR ESPIONAGE ON BEHALF OF CUBAN INTELLIGENCE, RELEASED IN 1970 IN EXHCNAGE FOR KIDNAPPED US AIR ATTACHE CROWLEY, ARRESTED IN CANADA LAST YEAR FOR ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE US ON A FALSE PASSPORT, AND CONSEQUENTLY DEPORTED TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHERE HE HAS BEEN SERVING HIS ORIGINAL SENTENCE FOR ESPIONAGE.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF POLITICAL EXILES WHO ARE TO BE ALLOWED TO RETURN.

4. PUELLO SORIANO, SPEAKING FOR A NUMBER OF PRISONERS RELEASED SEPTEMBER 12, SAID THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES LEGALLY. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY DOES NOT CALL FOR ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, NOW THAT LAWS AGAINST COMMUNIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN ANNULLED. SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, PUELLO SORIANO SAID HE WOULD SUPPORT THE ACTIONS OF THE GUZMAN GOVERNMENT THAT ARE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY AND HE WOULD CRITICIZE THOSE THAT ARE BAD.
YOST

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